

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /059 W

----- 023480

R 071607Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2636

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USEC BRUSSELS

USNATO MISSION 1814

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FOR EUR/NE AMBASSADOR DEAN

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, DA

SUBJ: HARTLING COOLS IT

REF: COPENHAGEN 1488

SUMMARY: LIBERAL LEADER HARTLING HAS STATED DEFINITELY
THAT (1) HE DOES NOT WANT ELECTIONS NOW OR IN THE FALL,
AND (2) THERE HAS BEEN NO "OPENING

" TO GLISTRUP'S

PROGRESSIVES. MUCH OF THE RECENT SOUND AND FURY WAS

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PROBABLY GENERATED BY THE LIBERALS TO ENHANCE THEIR

SOMEWHAT FLAGGING PUBLIC IMAGE. END SUMMARY.

1. LIBERAL LEADER POUL HARTLING TOLD THE PRESS ON MAY 5 THAT HIS PARTY DOES NOT WANT FOLKETING ELECTIONS EITHER NOW OR IN THE FALL. IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS, HARTLING DENIED THAT THERE WAS AN "OPENING" TO MOGENS GLISTRUP'S PROGRESSIVES. HE SAID THE LIBERALS WELCOMED VOTES FROM OTHER PARTIES FOR ITS PROPOSALS ON THE LAND TAX AND ARE "ONLY TOO GLAD THAT THE PROGRESSIVES, THE CHRISTIANS AND THE CENTER DEMOCRATS SEEM TO SHARE OUR VIEWS".

2. COMMENT: HARTLING'S REMARKS REINFORCE THOSE MADE BY LIBERAL PARTY PARLIAMENTARIAN ARNE CHRISTIANSEN AND OUR OWN JUDGMENT EXPRESSED IN REFTEL. CONSEQUENTLY, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT UNLESS PARTY LEADERS, PARTICULARLY HARTLING, MAKE GROSS MISCALCULATIONS, ANKER JORGENSEN'S SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT IS SECURE THROUGH THE FALL AND PERHAPS BEYOND.

3. IT IS NOT YET CLEAR, HOWEVER, HOW HARTLING INTENDS TO FINESSE HIS COMMITMENT ON THE IMPORTANT LAND TAX QUESTION WHICH WILL COME UP SOON IN FOLKETING. AND ALTHOUGH GLISTRUP IS HARTLING'S PRINCIPAL BETE NOIRE, IT IS DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT HIS DENIAL OF ANY LIBERAL MOVE TOWARD GLISTRUP. THE EVIDENCE THAT THE LIBERALS WERE PREPARED TO COLLABORATE MORE CLOSELY WITH THE PROGRESSIVES WAS A "HANDS OUTSTRETCHED" SPEECH MADE BY FORMER LIBERAL DEFENSE MINISTER ERLING BRONDUM. THE SPEECH WAS REPRODUCED IN LIBERAL NEWSPAPERS AND DISTRIBUTED BY LIBERAL LOCAL PARTY OFFICES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

4. A LEADING LIBERAL PARLIAMENTARIAN AGAIN ASSURED POL COUNS TODAY THAT THERE WAS NO SUBSTANCE IN THE TALK OF COLLABORATION WITH THE PROGRESSIVES. IT MAY BE THAT BRONDUM'S MOVE WAS A CALCULATED PART OF THE SOUND AND FURY GENERATED BY THE LIBERALS OVER THE PAST WEEK TO PUT THEMSELVES BACK IN THE PUBLIC EYE. HARTLING HIMSELF HAS REMAINED REMARKABLY QUIET OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS, AND RECENT PUBLIC OPINION POLLS HAVE SHOWN THAT HIS PARTY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAD LOST SUPPORT.
LUKENS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SITUATION, LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS, ELECTION CAMPAIGNS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976COPENH01524
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760178-0987
From: COPENHAGEN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760581/aaaacrgj.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 COPENHAGEN 1488
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31 MAR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <01 APR 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HARTLING COOLS IT
TAGS: PINT, DA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006